

The war in Iraq was right

Alex Touchstone is a senior at Lamar School. His interests include sports, hunting, fishing and spending time with friends and family. Alex is thinking of pursuing a career in either medicine or the ministry.

In this fiery opinion column, Alex argues that the U.S. War on Terrorism was not only the right thing to do — it was unavoidable.

"I chose this subject because I am proud to be an American," he said. "I believe our role in the world is very important."

Alex Touchstone
special to The Star

There has been a lot of talk since the war in Iraq started about whether it was right for us to go over there or not. A lot of Americans are saying that it is none of our business to intervene in the rest of the world, or be the "world police."

Others say that the president lied to us, telling us there were weapons of mass destruction when we have found none. Some simply think what has been done is not worth the American lives and money it has cost.

Well, I am here to say that there are others out there, like myself, who support the war and what our brave men and women are doing over there. I believe that the president was right to send troops to Iraq, and that they have done a lot of good.

As a citizen of the United States and the world, I want to say that this war needed to happen and could not have been avoided as long as Saddam Hussein was in power.

Now, the world knows the truth

Saddam Hussein is a man very similar to Hitler and Stalin. He tried to conquer other nations, like Kuwait, for his own gain. He has ordered mass killings and other horrendous acts against his own people. He had billions tied up in his property while most of his subjects lived in poverty.

Is this a man fit to rule a nation? Is this a man that the United States can afford to leave in power in a post 9-11 world?

Though Hussein has not been found to have any ties with al-Qaeda, it is governments like the one he ran that allow terrorism to survive by harboring them in their countries and even rewarding terrorist acts on the United States and Israel.

Hussein has always had issues with the United States. I am sure he was just waiting for his chance



Touchstone

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

— Attributed to Edmund Burke, 1729-1797, Irish statesman

to do something against us. We saved ourselves a lot of future trouble by going to war.

As I already mentioned, the world now knows about all the terrible things Hussein was doing to his people.

If he suspected people were against him, he simply had them killed. If one had different views in religion or politics and he found out, the person was most likely dead. They had no freedom like we have here. He ran the media and told them only what he wanted. He had likenesses of himself everywhere so all the people would know who their ruler was. People starved to death, and he and his family lived better than celebrities ...

No alternative

How can all this be allowed to continue? If we had ignored these things, then we would have been partially guilty. I believe it is our responsibility to intervene when crimes against humanity, such as

the ones Saddam Hussein was orchestrating, are going on.

In the Bible, Luke 12:48 says: "... and from everyone who has been given much shall much be required..."

I think most Americans would agree with that principle even if they do not believe in the Bible. America has been blessed more than any other nation on earth, so we should accept our role as world leaders. If that means being the "world police" sometimes, so be it.

This was not a war against Iraq as some people say, but a war against a man and his followers who should not have been ruling. We saved the Iraqi people, and anyone who does not think so was not paying attention to the news after Hussein was overthrown. His people partied in the streets and even kissed U.S. soldiers for liberating them.

Critics everywhere

Obviously, going to Iraq was not popular with some; doing the right thing often is not. France, Germany and the United Nations were very vocal about their stance on the war.

After being ignored by Hussein countless times, one would have thought the U.N. would have had the backbone to say something should be done about it. Instead they told President

Bush he did not have their permission to do anything — and he kindly showed them he did not need their permission.

It is rather ironic that France was against the war. We liberated them from Hitler in World War II in much the same way we liberated the Iraqi people from Hussein. I guess they are only for going to war when it directly benefits them.

Another group back home that was very vocal against the war was made up of liberal Hollywood actors and actresses. I include Michael Moore in this group since he makes movies — not documentaries, as he claims.

This is a very small percentage of Americans, but because of their fame and wealth, they got their voices heard more than the average person.

I guess they have not thought about how a revolution against a dictatorship (the American Revolution), similar to the war in Iraq, is what gave them the freedom to speak out as well as to act and make millions. Apparently they also do not think all human beings should have those same freedoms.

Though never the easy thing, going to war is sometimes the right thing to do. Was the war in Iraq worth 1,302 American lives? I say yes, and I think most American soldiers, even those who died, would say the same ...

Contributors



In this section are stories, features and artwork by:

Amy Barnett
Amanda Cody
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Frances White's class



FILE ART

CATCHING UP WITH R.D. HARRIS

The cover of last year's "Religion and Education" section featured a story written by Meridian High School student Courtney Trotter. It was about the return in 2003 of former principal R.D. Harris to Meridian High School — a change eagerly anticipated by school officials, teachers and the community. During his 25 years at MHS, Harris established a reputation for unwavering emphasis on academics and student achievement, but also for instilling personal and school pride. When he returned, Harris plunged right into his duties as principal ... again. In a matter of months, student morale, conduct and academics visibly improved. Student performance on ACT tests has already risen from an average of 18 to 21.1; the national average is 21.8.

What do servicemen in Iraq mean when they talk about

The "Red Zone"?

Read Jason Brush's story in the Homes section of "Profile 2005: A Letter from Home."

In the Homes section, read "A letter to Cuz."